# saalt

SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER

Strengthening South Asian Communities in America

www.saalt.org

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) is a national, nonpartisan, non-profit organization that fights for racial justice and advocates for the civil rights of all South Asians in the United States. **Our ultimate vision is dignity and full inclusion for all**.

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**We fulfill our mission through:**

- **Advocating for just and equitable public policies at the national and local level;**
- **Strengthening grassroots South Asian organizations as catalysts for community change;**
- **Informing and influencing the national dialogue on trends impacting our communities.**

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**Some core strategies include:**

•Engaging in national level policy advocacy focused on hate violence, immigration, and civil rights and liberties, informed by our work and experience at the community level.

•Building community power by partnering with and strengthening the capacity of NCSO organizations (and candidate organizations for the NCSO) to impact state and local policy.

•Maintaining crisis and rapid response capacity where critical gaps exist, and in service of advancing our communities' priorities.

•Conducting analysis and gather evidence on the challenges and the public policies that affect South Asians.

•Spearheading community and constituency education on priority issues and policies impacting South Asian communities

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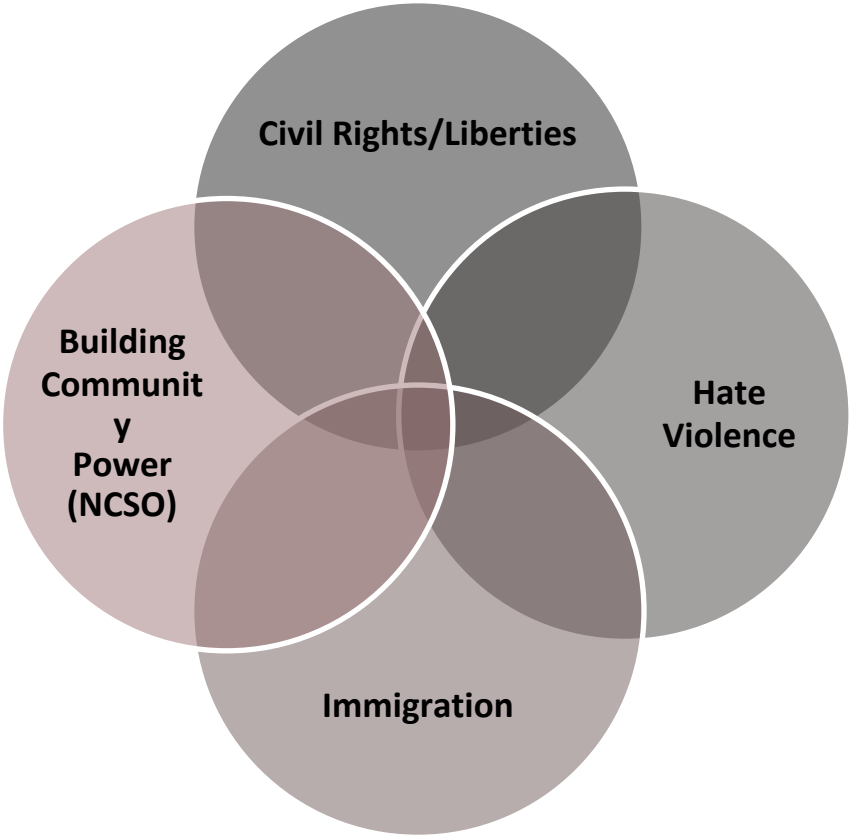
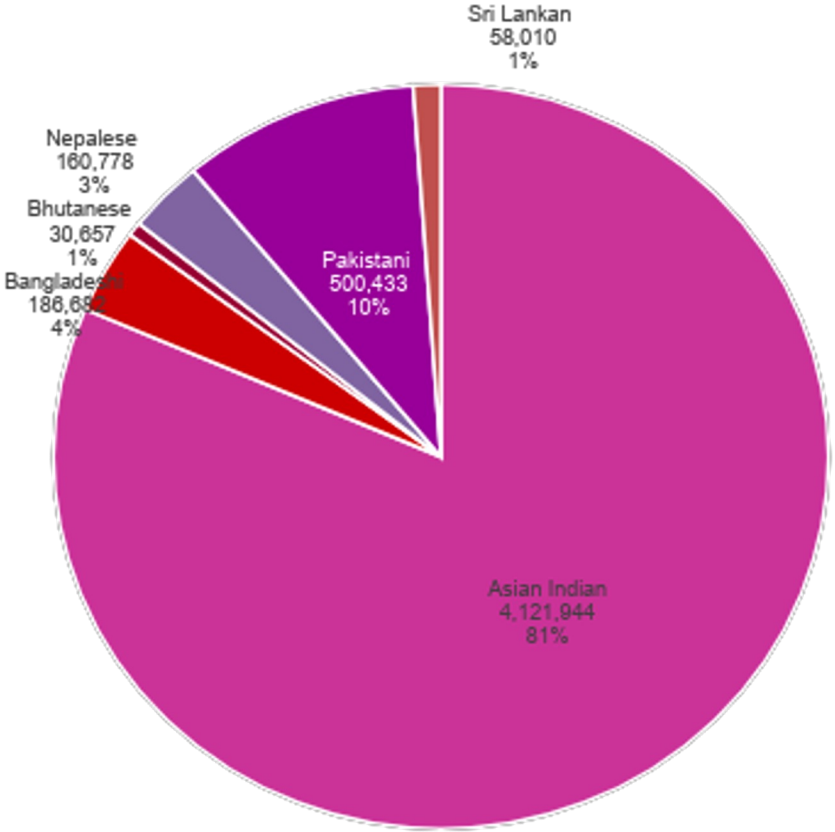
# SAALT Priority Issue Areas



# National Origin of South Asian Americans




Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

# Undocumented Pakistani-Americans:
## Up to 6,000 Eligible for DACA

- Between 3,000-6,000 individuals born in Pakistan are possibly DACA-eligible
- **Only 1,879 persons** born in Pakistan have **applied**
- **One-half to two-thirds** of those born in Pakistan and potentially eligible for DACA **have not applied**
- DACA Applicants born in Pakistan are 1.2 times more likely to be denied than applicants from other Asian countries

Source: WHIAAPI 2016

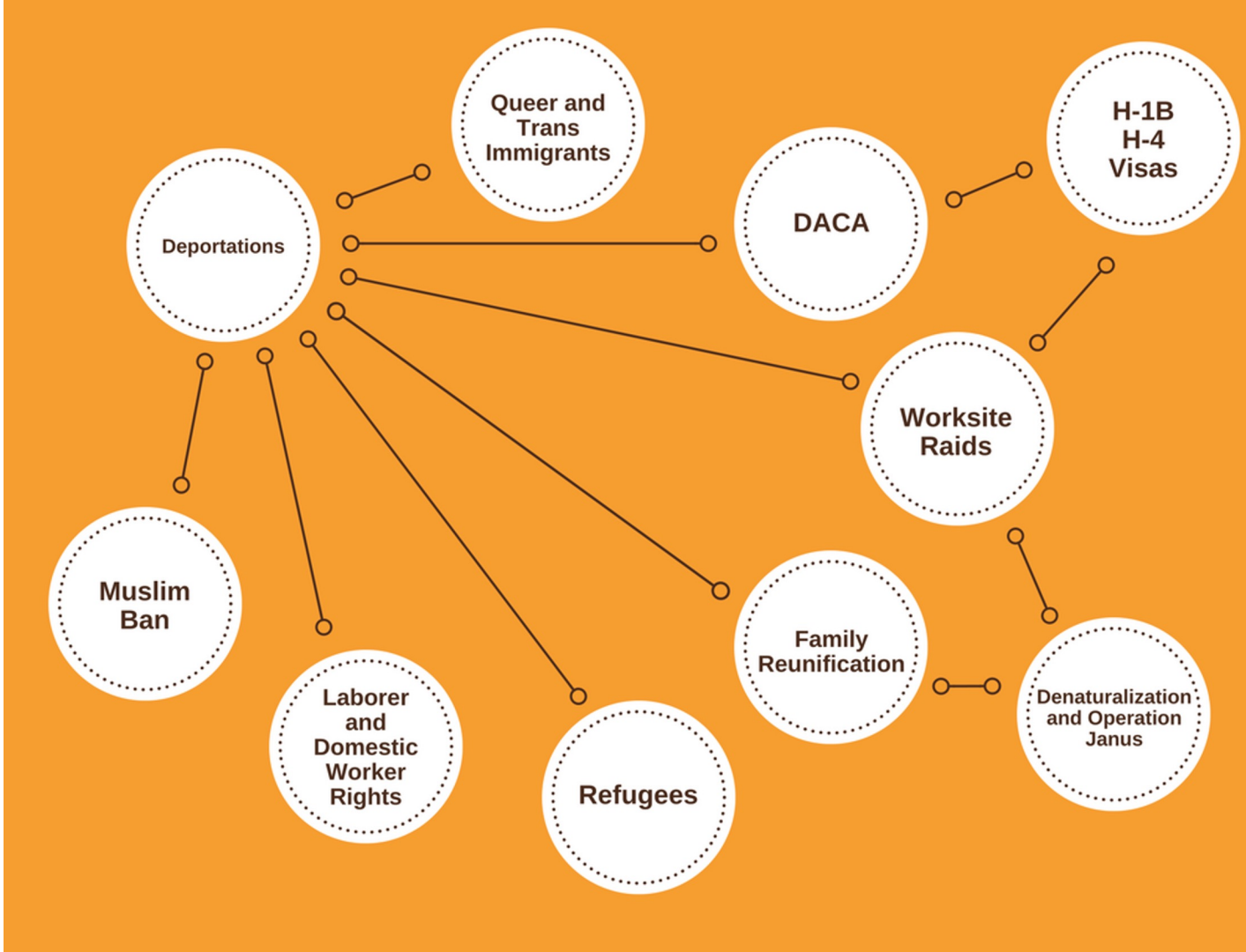
# AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF SOUTH ASIAN DREAMers

# Nepali TPS Holders

- Nearly 10,000 Nepalis in the United States lost Temporary Protected Status (TPS) last week when Department of Homeland Security terminated Nepal's designation, making in the 7th country DHS terminated this year.
- Nepal is still recovering from a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck in 2015
- Remittances from one family member in the U.S. support 7-10 family members in Nepal who are recovering from the devastation
- TPS expiration is set for June 24, 2018 with a one year transition period

Source: National Immigration Forum, 2018

# Immigration Struggles Are Linked



# Census 2020: Proposed Changes Raise Deep Concerns for South Asian American Communities

- Given significant undocumented & low-income populations, undercount among South Asians has been longstanding concern
- Proposed changes to Census 2020 short form to add citizenship question almost certain to further depress response rate, fuel greater undercount
- Deep concerns on Census data integrity and confidentiality: how to prevent its use to target our communities on interior immigration enforcement, national security,  racial and religious profiling
- SAALT & others' longstanding work to enhance languages, categories of South Asian Americans, MENA individuals likely eroded

# Data Collection

## Acts of Hate Database

www.saalt.org/policy-change/post-9-11-backlash

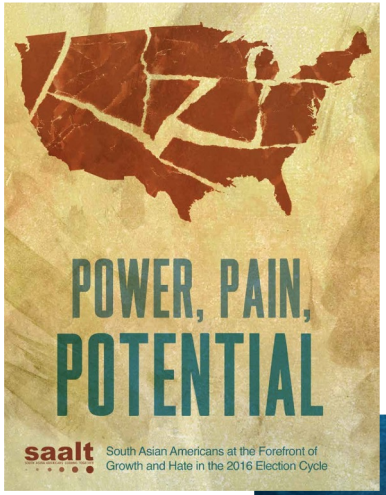
| Where? | State | Region | Perpetrators | Specific Targets | Type of Target | Anti-Muslim Sentiment | What was said/done | Trump, MAGA, Muslim Ban, Build Wall, Kill em All Mentioned | Type of Violence | Article Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City, MO | MO | Midwest | unknown | Muslim family | Private Property/Business | Yes | On Tuesday April 24, a Muslim family returned to their home and found that someone had spray-painted racist and religious slurs all over their home and had lit their staircase on fire. | | property damage | https://www.kshb |
| Aurora, IL | IL | Midwest | George Miller | Muslim | Muslim | Yes | A piece of art by George Miller, titled "Hijab means Jihad," was posted in the display of Aurora Public Library and featured a poem that condoned violence against Muslim women.<br>The poem was displace on a confederate flag background, reading: "Every kid should be like my kid / And snatch a hijab. / He brought it home from school / And whooped and danced around / Like an Indian with a scalp. / And told me it was his / Best day ever. / You know if they want to be here / They can't be disrespectful. / Hijab to me means jihad / So keep that shit out of / The country I love. / You want to dress different / Do it in the privacy of your home / Not right in my face / Some people don't know / What America is all about / But me and my family / Are here to show them / The right way. | | verbal/written | http://abc7chicag |
| Mount Holly, NJ | NJ | Eastern | Unknown | Kenya Robinson | woman with hijab | Yes | On April 11, Kenya Robinson's car was vandalized, car tire was flattened, back lights broken, and a note was left near the tire that said "Go home n-- terrorist you not wanted here b-- USA USA USA" | | property damage | http://pix11.com/ |

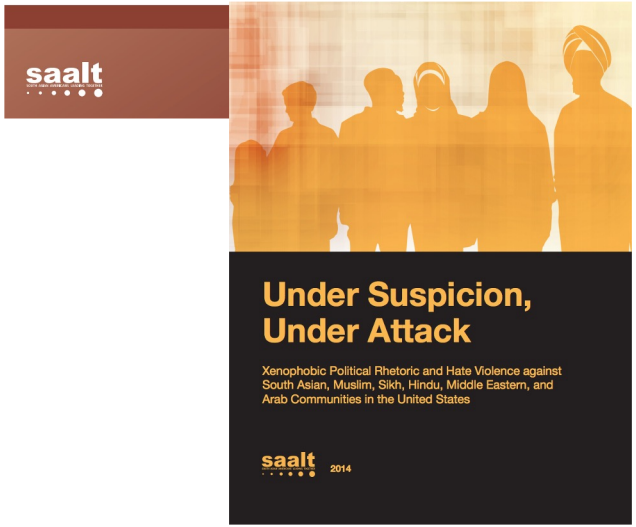
# Data Collection

**Model Policy Database** bit.ly/2jG770M

- Tracking federal, state, and local level legislation
- Hate Crimes, Immigration, Anti-Sharia, Sanctuary, Domestic Terrorism, LGBTIQ, Gender Equity + Gender Based Violence, Census, Language Access, Health, and Housing
- Tool for the NCSO members to identify potential policy campaigns and collaborations
- If your organization is working on state/local level policies please forward them to Mahnoor, mahnoor@salt.org to include in the database

**FROM MACACAS TO TURBAN TOPPERS:**
**THE RISE IN XENOPHOBIC AND RACIST RHETORIC IN AMERICAN POLITICAL DISCOURSE**

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Under Suspicion, Under Attack
Xenophobic Political Rhetoric and Hate Violence against South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities in the United States
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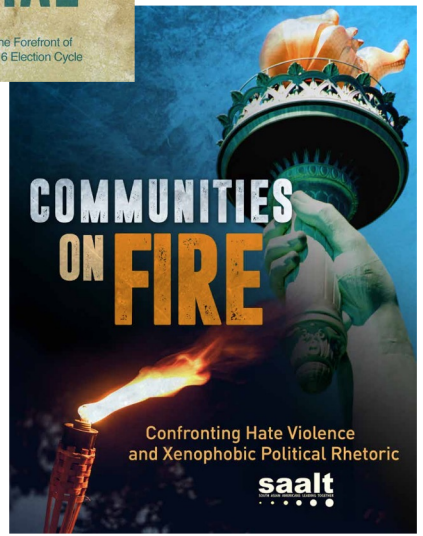
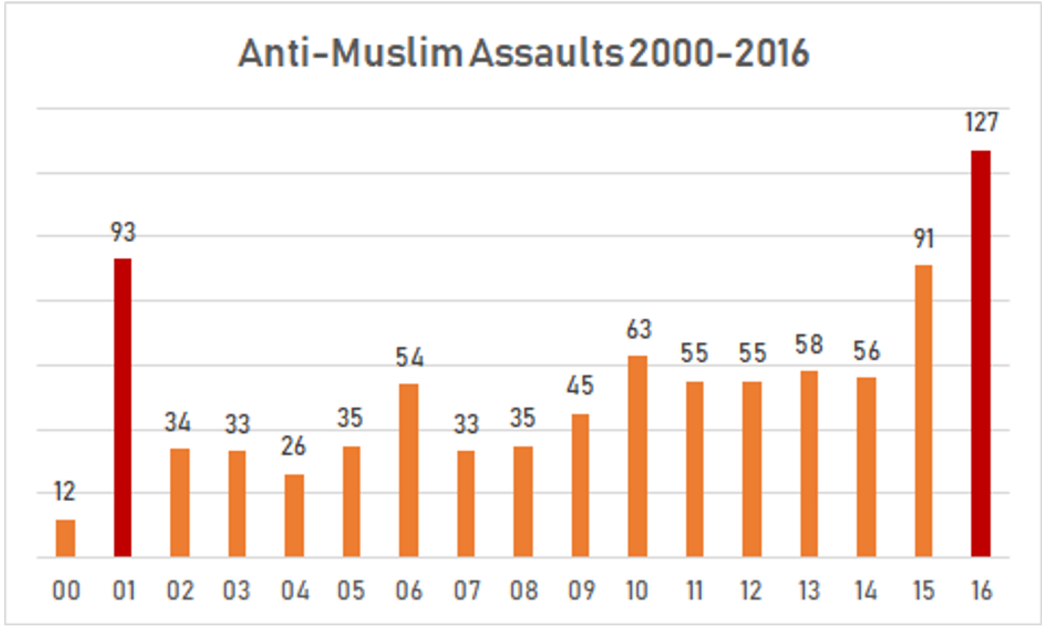
2014

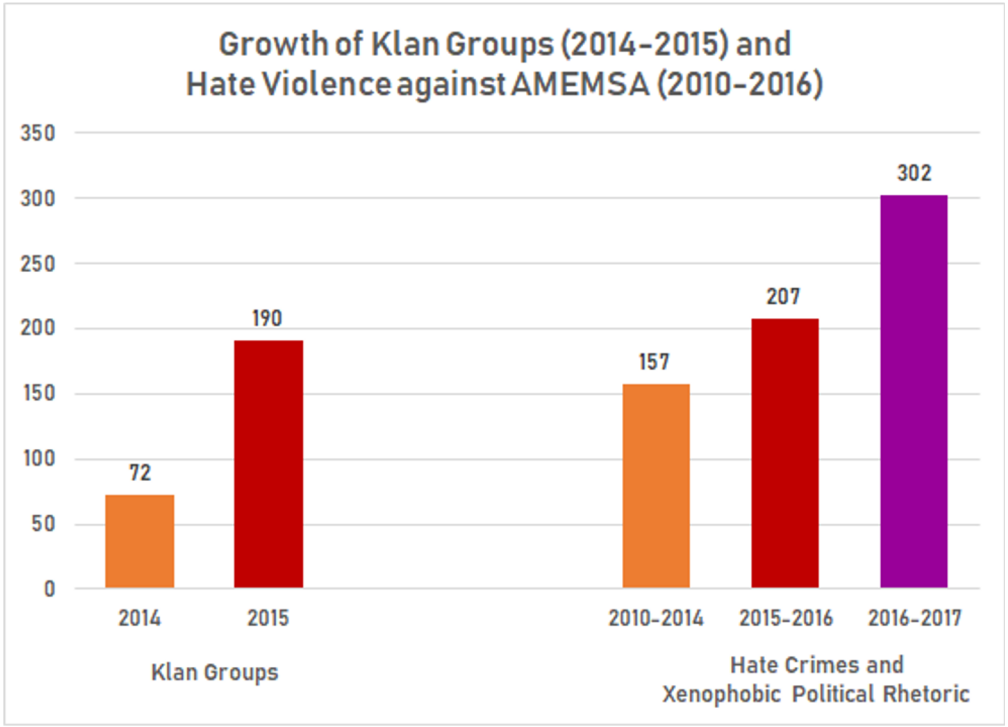


# Anti-Muslim Violence Surpasses Historic Post 9/11 Levels




Source: Pew Research Center, November 2017

# Intersection of White Supremacist Growth, Demographic Growth, and Hate Violence




Source: Top - SPLC Hate Map, SAALT *Power, Pain, Potential*, 2017

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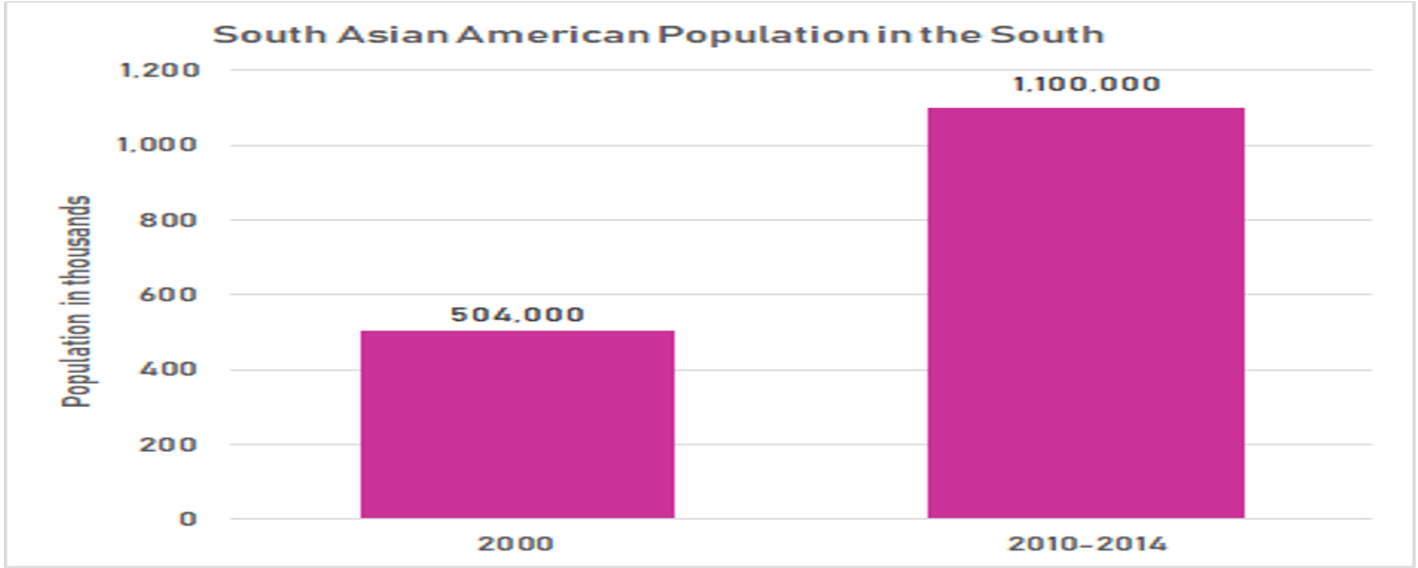


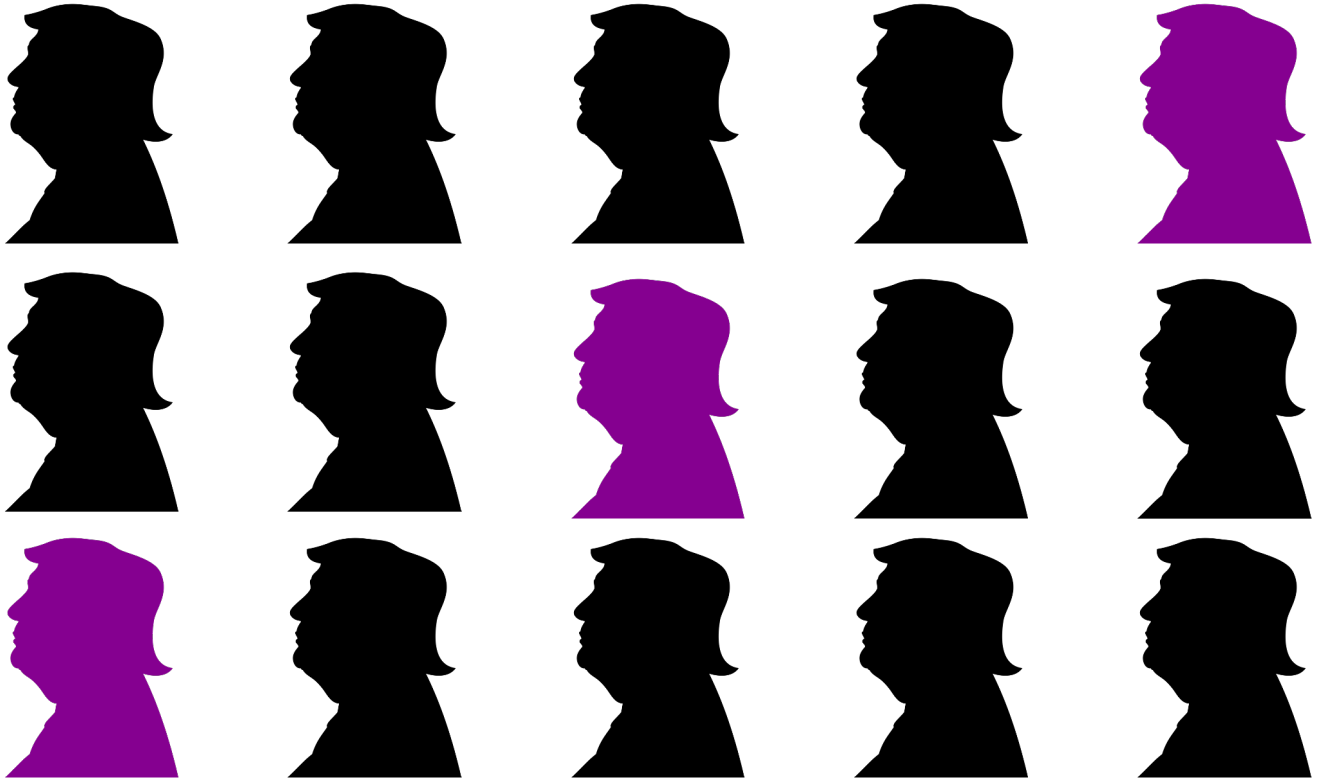

Source: AAPI Data, 20115 ACS 5-Year Estimates

# Hate Violence Incidents Nationwide, 2016-2017

Incidents of Hate Violence Targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities Nationwide
NOVEMBER 2016 – NOVEMBER 2017
86. 5/26/2017 Portland, OR
Jeremy Joseph Christian, a known white supremacist, screamed anti-Muslim insults at two women on the commuter train, and then fatally stabbed two men and wounded a third as the men tried to intervene.
140. 3/3/2017 Kent, WA
A perpetrator approached a Sikh man, Deep Rai, on his driveway and asked why he was cleaning his car before the perpetrator told him to "go back to [his] country," and then shot Rai in the arm.
86. 7/3/2017 Fargo, ND
Two white men approached three Somali Muslim men who were moving into a local apartment and shouted racial slurs before assaulting one of the men.
119. 4/10/2017 Milwaukee, WI
A perpetrator beat a woman leaving morning prayers and pulled off her hijab. She then pushed her to the ground, repeatedly stomped on her head, and took out a knife and slashed her clothing.
68. 8/5/2017 Minneapolis, MN
An explosive device detonated at the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center. Witnesses reported seeing something get thrown at the Imam's office window from a vehicle just before the blast.
154. 2/5/2017 Peyton, CO
An Indian man, Saravanan Arunachalam, found dog feces smeared across his garage, the remnants of nearly 40 eggs thrown at the house, and over 50 hate messages and racial slurs. One of the messages read, "You brown or Indian shouldn't be here."
147. 2/23/2017 Olathe, KS
Adam Purinton shot and killed Srinivas Kuchibhotla. He also shot two others who were left with injuries. Purinton yelled "get out of my country" before shooting.
25. 10/6/2017 Albuquerque, NM
A Muslim-owned Donut Mart location was vandalized with the phrase "kill 'em all."
45. 9/6/2017 Los Angeles, CA
A Sikh temple was vandalized and hate messages scrawled on its walls included "nuke the Sikhs."
137. 3/6/2017 Oahu, HI
Multiple hate-filled social media posts, emails, and voicemail messages were directed toward members of the Oahu Mosque in Hawaii after the announcement of a second Muslim Ban. One of the messages said "Now we have a president who knows that you guys are evil and we're going to exterminate you."
32. 9/21/2017 Houston, TX
Matthew Dunn hurled obscenities at his Lyft driver, based on his perception that the driver was Muslim and from Pakistan. Dunn also grabbed the driver's hair and punched and choked him.
193. 11/23/2016 Charlotte, NC
A kindergarten teacher repeatedly harassed and bullied a Muslim kindergarten student in his class, singling him out and repeatedly calling him a "bad Muslim boy." The teacher approached the student, grabbed him by the neck and began choking him.
92. 6/18/2017 Sterling, VA
Darwin Martinez Torres killed 17-year-old Black Muslim girl, Nabra Hassanen, after she and a group of friends encountered him in the early morning hours. The group had been at a late-night event at the Al Dulles Area Muslim Society and were headed back to the mosque after a trip to a fast-food restaurant.
118. 4/11/2017 Charlotte, NC
A suspect lit an object on fire and used it to shatter the window of Central Market, a Bhutanese-owned grocery store. A note at the scene included a warning to refugees and immigrants and read "go back to where you came from."
115. 4/16/2017 Dunwoody, GA
A man ripped off the hijab of a 14-year-old Muslim girl while yelling "terrorist" near the Muggiano's Little Italy at Perimeter Mall.

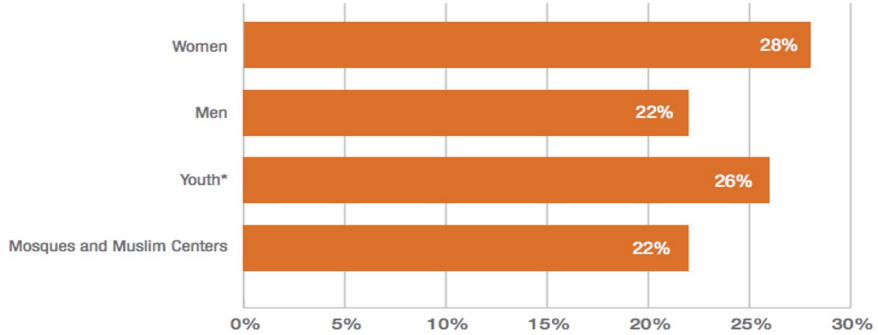
Source: SAALT *Communities on Fire*, 2018

**1 in 5 hate violence perpetrators referenced President Trump**, a Trump administration policy, or a Trump campaign slogan as they committed their violent act**.**



Source: SAALT *Communities on Fire*, 2018

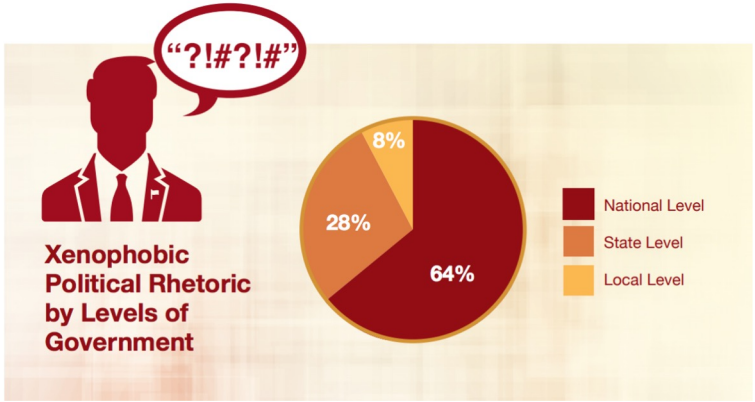
# Main Targets of Hate Violence: Women and Youth

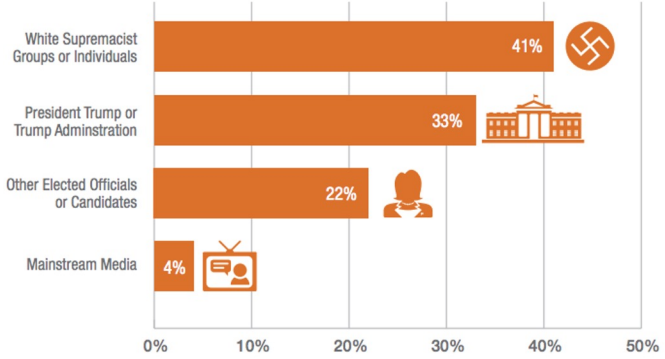


**Women who wear hijabs or head scarves are particularly vulnerable, accounting for 63% of the hate incidents targeting women that we documented.**

Source: SAALT *Communities on Fire*, 2018

# Source of Xenophobic Political Rhetoric 2011 vs 2017




Source: Top - SAALT *Under Suspicion Under Attack,* 2014
Bottom - SAALT *Communities on Fire*, 2018

# The long-term impact of the Muslim Ban

- The Trump administration's Muslim Bans have played a central role to codify and intensify the racial profiling aimed at Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim in addition to the hate incidents that occurred immediately after the announcement of the Muslim Bans as outlined earlier.
- Several days after the first Muslim Ban was introduced in January 2017, Jaya, an Indian American woman who does not identify as Muslim, contacted SAALT through our confidential online reporting form.

Jaya was traveling with her baby and was barred by airline personnel from boarding her flight in Cairo, Egypt back to the U.S. after clearing security. Following directives based on the Muslim Ban, an airline representative denied Jaya boarding due to her physical, religious, and/ or ethnic presentation as Muslim. The trauma from the ordeal caused Jaya to experience a heart attack, from which she is still recovering. The mental and physical costs of profiling on our communities are significant. Jaya's heart attack and anxiety related to the stress of profiling has a long-term impact on her life, from employment issues, access to quality healthcare, and the overall stability of her family.

# SAALT Town Halls 2017 - 2018

# Looking Forward: 2018

- Enhancing Census 2020 outreach efforts in South Asian American communities
- Distribution of additional “Know Your Rights” materials
- 2018 midterm election voter education materials development
- Interactive website about immigration linkages and community conversation and Q&A toolkit. Ex: Conversations between H-4, H-1B holders, and Dreamers.

# Adhikaar: TPS for Nepal

# Kiran, Inc. & NCAAT: Combating Hate Violence

NORTH CAROLINA TOWN HALL ON HATE VIOLENCE AGAINST SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS
OCTOBER 7, 2017 1:30PM-4:30PM
HERBERT C. YOUNG COMMUNITY CENTER- COACH KAY YOW COURT
101 WILKINSON AVE, CARY, NC 27513
Light refreshments will be served. Free parking available
Featured Speakers
Attorney General Josh Stein
Senator Angela Bryant
Senator Jay Chaudhuri
Chapel Hill Police Chief Chris Blue
Farris Barakat, The Lighthouse Project
Manzoor Chema (MERI)
Former Representative Rick Glazier
And others ...
Sponsored by:
Duke Office of Civic Engagement
Kiran, Inc
Islamic Association of Raleigh
Islamic Center of Morrisville
North Carolina Asian Americans Together
North Carolina Department of Justice
North Carolina Justice Center
North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus
Pakistani-American Anjuman
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
The Islamic Association of Cary
The Office of Senator Jay Chaudhuri
RSVP here: http://bit.ly/2y9vj1C
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For more information, please email info@saalt.org with 'NC Townhall' in the subject line

# Desis Rising Up and Moving: UndocuRegistry

# Group Exercise: Building Power through Legislation

- Breakouts - 3 issue area groups
  - Hate Crimes
  - Civil Rights/Civil Liberties
  - Immigration

- Build a 1 year legislative campaign among your organizations
- How does it center those most directly impacted?
- What does your dream legislative outcome look like?
- Can be at the federal, state, or local level